

5(b).

What is claimed is:

Claims

1. A three dimensional stencil comprising:

a generally flat, flexible portion adapted for contact with a portion of a fingernail or toenail; and

a cut-out portion formed within the confines of the flexible portion;

5 wherein the cut-out portion includes walls having a thickness of at least about 1mm; and

wherein the flexible portion forms an opening adjacent to the cut-out portion.

2. The three dimensional stencil of claim 1 wherein the flexible portion is itself of a thickness of at least about 1mm, and the cut-out portion forms an opening in the flexible portion.

3. The three dimensional stencil of claim 1 wherein the cut-out portion comprises walls attached to and extending up from the flexible portion.

4. The three dimensional stencil of claim 3, further including tabs connecting the cut-out portion walls to the flexible portion.

5. The three dimensional stencil of claim 1, wherein the flexible portion is generally nail-shaped.

6. The three dimensional stencil of claim 5, wherein the flexible portion further comprises a sticky layer for sticking the flexible portion to the nail.

7. The three dimensional stencil of claim 1, wherein the flexible portion includes more than one cut-out portion.

8. The three dimensional stencil of claim 7, wherein the flexible portion comprises a sheet larger than a nail.

9. The three dimensional stencil of claim 1, wherein the walls have a thickness of between 1mm and 3mm.

10. A method of applying a three dimensional acrylic design to a fingernail or toenail comprising the steps of:

(a) Applying a flexible stencil having a cut-out with walls to a nail;

(b) applying acrylic into the cutout to form a 3-d acrylic design; and

5 (c) removing the stencil.

11. The method of claim 10, further comprising the step of:

roughening the nail prior to step (a).

12. The method of claim 11, further comprising the step of:

applying primer to the nail prior to step (a).

13. The method of claim 10, further comprising the steps of:

repeating steps (a) through (c) with different stencils or portions of a stencil to create a multilayer design.

14. The method of claim 10, further comprising the step of:

painting the 3-d acrylic design.